

Member Richard Northey's Report to 13 December 2016 Waitemata Local Board Meeting

I learned a lot from my participation in training and familiarisation sessions on what is this new role for me on the 8th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st and 29th November. On the 10th I was privileged to be asked to share my own insights at the regional training session on "Getting to Grips with Governance". On the 17th I drafted an advocacy proposal on the Council advancing affordable housing arising out of our briefing on the 2017-18 Annual Plan at our 16th February workshop.

On 11th November I represented the Board at the Council's Citywide Arts and Cultural Hui at Uxbridge. As well as reporting there in my former role as a Trustee of the Contemporary Art Foundation, I gained greater appreciation of the work of TAPAC and of the Basement as a result of my taking part in workshops led by them.

On 13th November my family enjoyed the opening of the well organised and diverse Parnell Festival of Roses. 15th November I took part in an interesting Auckland Conversation on Living by the Water" regarding international learnings from residential developments near waterfronts.

On 16th February I chaired the Inner City Network Meeting hosted by the AGC on issues affecting international students in the Inner City. There is now an interagency working party led by Education New Zealand involving ATEED and a range of government departments and tertiary institutions meeting fortnightly on international students issues. These students now make up a substantial proportion of the Inner City residential and day user populations. Issues raised related to a duty of care by Council and other agencies broadly across: appropriate preparation for life in Auckland; loneliness; safety; discrimination; financial management; and addictions.

Some recent local events I participated in were the Taste of Auckland opening at Western Springs Reserve on 17th November; the Centenary celebrations for the Myers Park Kindergarten involving the Mayor and the Auckland Kindergarten Association members; the fascinating Outsider Art Fair Exhibitions including the 22nd November opening of Andrew Blythe's exhibition at the Tim Melville Gallery at 4 Winchester Street and I had an enlightening chat with Tim Melville about his philosophy for his exhibitions; and the morning tea on 25th November for the season reopening of the Parnell Baths after some useful off season upgrades and remaining challenges.

On 24th November a number of Board Members were shown over St David's Church in Khyber Pass where local enthusiasts have raised funds for its restoration for community use. That day the Councils of Social Services across Auckland met to discuss common challenges they are facing including government requiring appropriate outcome measures and changes in the criteria and reductions in funding, for organisations providing community and social services, which are putting more financial pressure on them and on local board funding. On 28th November the Centre for Addiction Research at Auckland University held an all day seminar and I learnt a lot about practical issues regarding Council alcohol policies and control measures together with regulatory and other issues on tobacco, gambling and drugs.

On 28th November I enjoyed taking part in the Annual General Meeting of the Ponsonby Community Centre, which reported a successful year financially and in terms of its Ponsy Kids preschool and the community activities at both Ponsonby Terrace and at the Leys Institute Building. I was welcomed there, and a number of the Committee Members said they hoped I would join their Committee as the Local Board representative. The 30th November had me enjoying the opening the Griffiths Gardens in Wellesley Street, a marvellous urban pop up park until Aotea Stadium is built, and the Western Park Playground on the corner of Ponsonby Road and Hopetoun Street within sight of the apartment my wife and I will be moving into in Hereford Street next year.

Richard Northey 30 November 2016